

# **CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Member Biographies**

**December, 2001**


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**Joyce DeWitt** was previously the Interim Executive Director of the Child Development Policy Advisory Committee while stepping away from the Committee as a member. Prior to serving as Executive Director she had retired from her role as Manager for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Child Development Services. Previously, she worked as an instructor at San Bernardino Community College. She has served as the state president of the California Child Development Administrators Association as well as the Chair of the San Bernardino County Child Care Council. De Witt is a member of the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and Phi Delta Kappa. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development from the University of La Verne.

**Mary M. Emmons** is Executive Director of Children's Institute International, a private, non-profit organization for abused and neglected children. Ms. Emmons is an active advocate for vulnerable children and has been appointed to numerous public policy boards and committees, including the Los Angeles Preschool Safety Task Force, the Los Angeles County Child Sexual Abuse Crisis Center Steering Committee, the Blue Ribbon Children's Services Planning Commission for Los Angeles County, and the Child Welfare League of America's National Advisory Committee on Chemical Dependency and Child Welfare, and the Committee on Management and Governance Standards. Ms. Emmons has been a member of the Advisory Committee since 1982 where she has served as Chair, chair of the Child Protection Subcommittee and co-chair of the Comprehensive Services Workgroup. Emmons earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations from the University of Chicago and has a background of more than 30 years in government and non-profit health and children's services including positions with Head Start, the U.S. Office of Child Development, City of Chicago Model Cities Program, and Daniel Freeman Hospital Medical Center.

**Joyce S. Hanson** is a Registered Music Therapist for children. Hanson is also active as a grandparent raising her grandchildren. Hanson has been a member of the State's Elementary Grades Task Force, and has also served as president of the Tustin Unified School District Board as well as the Orange County School Boards' Association. Currently, she is the Chair of the Orange County Local Child Care Planning Council. Hanson has long been active in the community and was honored as the Tustin Woman of the Year and also the recipient of the George Washington Medal of Honor from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Assessment Treatment and Services Center, a private, non-profit juvenile diversion program. Hanson is a church choral director and organist and has spent years as a parent and community volunteer producing and directing musical programs for children. Hanson earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brigham Young University.

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**Michael Jett** was appointed the Director of the Child Development Division, California Department of Education effective April 1, 2000. Michael was most recently the Assistant Director of the Division with responsibility for the Division's Quality Improvement and Capacity Building Unit where he demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the quality of child care and development programs across the State. He is also the Department's representative to the California Children and Families Commission where he has worked to promote coordination with departmental efforts and increased child care resources.

The past 25 years of Michael's professional career have been dedicated to addressing children's issues at the State and local levels. He came from the Governor's Office of Child Development and Education where he was the Deputy Secretary for Child Development and Education from May 1995 to January 1999. In that capacity he was responsible for advising the Secretary on all aspects related to child development and children's issues. He was actively involved in a variety of activities related to creating a "seamless" child care system for children and families and in negotiating the child care portions of the CalWORKs legislation. Prior to that, Michael worked in the Attorney General's Office as Assistant Director of the Crime Prevention Center and in the Department of Social Services as a specialist in child abuse prevention. Michael was also a pediatric social worker at the University of California Davis Medical Center and a child welfare worker for the Children's Receiving Home, Sacramento County's temporary shelter care center for abused and neglected children.

**Lynn B. Lucas** has served on the Advisory Committee since 1989. Lucas serves as the Director of Child Development Programs for the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools Office. Lucas is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the California Child Development Administrators Association. Lucas earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science and a Master's Degree in Education from California State University, Sacramento. She also earned a second Master's Degree in Education/Administration from the University of San Francisco.

**Kathleen V. Malaske-Samu** is Los Angeles County's Child Care Coordinator, a position she has held since 1988. Malaske-Samu is a member of the Child Care Committee of the City of Los Angeles, Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families, and the Los Angeles Roundtable for Children. She is also an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Malaske-Samu earned her Bachelor's Degree in Child Psychology at the University of Minnesota, a Master's Degree in human development from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, and a Master's Degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Evelyn L. Mason** is currently raising five of her grandchildren. Mason is a member of the National Coalition of Grandparents, co-chair of the California Coalition of Grandparents and Relative Caregivers, and sits on the Los Angeles County Commission for Children's Service. Previously, she was a L.V.N. at Huntington Memorial Hospital. She was also a nurse's aide at Los Angeles' John Wesley County Hospital. Mason is a resource person for the kinship program of the Los Angeles Department of Children's Social Services, active in Loving Your Disabled Child and a board member of the Remedial



Reading and Learning Center. Mason attended the University of Southern California and studied opera.

**Dennis N. Mooney** works as a sales representative for the Rainbow Baking Company. Previously, he worked for Continental Baking Company. Mooney is a member of the National Down Syndrome Congress and served as President of the Down Syndrome Congress of Northern California in 1986-87. Mooney is the adoptive parent of eleven children. Mooney was a volunteer at Creekside Elementary School and the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home.

**Eleanor A. Moulton** is the Owner and Director of EduCare, Inc., a preschool for toddlers and pre-kindergartners in Sacramento, CA. Moulton grew up in Moline, Illinois and made her way West while working as a nurse. She continued to work as a nurse and raise her two children while completing her degree in Early Childhood Education from CSU, Sacramento. Moulton did her student teaching in the kindergarten at Sierra Oaks Elementary School before teaching preschool and parenting classes in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District. She has trained hundreds of early childhood education professionals and prepared thousands of young children for kindergarten. She is constantly learning and improving her program and keeps well abreast of the very latest research in the social and cognitive development process of young children. She worked hard to keep her program flexible and available to single moms and dads, families with working parents and parents moving from welfare-to-work.

**Robert G. Orsi**, the founder of Bright Beginnings Preschools, is currently Western Vice President of Mulberry Child Care Centers. Orsi is a member of the Professional Association for Childhood Education, the National Association of Education of Young Children and the Young President's Organization. In 1993, he received the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award for service industries in the Inland Empire. Orsi earned a dual Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Psychology from Bucknell University and a Master's Degree in School Psychology from the University of Arizona.

**Bonnie Parks** has served as a management consultant and senior executive in both the private and public sectors for over 25 years. She presently serves as the Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing for the California Employment Development Department. She has previously held such diverse positions as Deputy Director of the Legislative Liaison Office at the Employment Development Department, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and Senior Consultant for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. She served on both the boards of the University of California, Berkeley Alumni Association and on the Sacramento Public Television, KVIE, Business Advisory Board for three years. In both of these positions she provided marketing consulting and fund-raising assistance. She was an appointee to the California State Commission on the Status of Women and was part of a team that wrote and passed into law statutes that gave women the ability to establish financial credit ratings in their own name without the co-signature of a spouse or male relative. She also served on the California Highway Patrol's Women Traffic Officer Project which established the ability of women to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts and Masters Degrees of Business Administration. She also has a Life Teaching Credential in Business Administration.



**Earl Peterson** has served on the Advisory Committee since 1973 and served as Chair from 1973-1986. Peterson is the retired California Regional Manager of Gerber Child Care Centers. Past president of the Pre-School Association of California. Past Member of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Children's Fund a private non-Profit organization that provides scholarships for the Irvine Child Care Projects After School Programs. He is currently the president of the Irvine Child Care Project a joint powers agreement between the City of Irvine and the Irvine Unified School District.

**Dianne L. Philibosian, Ph.D.** a resident of Pasadena, is formerly the Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Development, California State University, Northridge and is currently on a professional development leave to serve as a Regent of the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. She has been a professor and administrator at California State University, Northridge since 1973. She received her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts and French from the University of the Pacific in 1967. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education and Curriculum and Instruction from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she served as the Director of the Head Start Leadership Development Program for the south 62 counties of Illinois during the early seventies. In addition to her academic experience, she is very active in the child care community. She serves on the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee, the Pasadena Partnership for School-Age Children, Child Care Information Services Board of Directors, and the Mothers' Club -*A Community Resource Center for Those Who Mother*-Board of Directors.

She also serves on the boards of the Pasadena Playhouse, the Pasadena City College Foundation, and the Arroyo Seco Foundation. She is the co-author of Removing Barriers to Child Care Development as well a variety of articles and conference presentations for local, state, national and international organizations on a broad spectrum of topics from child care development to methods of using play, storytelling, and children's literature.

**Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D.** is a professor of clinical pediatrics at the USC School of Medicine and is the Director of Psychology at the USC University Affiliated Program at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She has worked extensively with service delivery, research, program development and policy addressing the needs of vulnerable children and their families in early intervention, foster care, Head Start and child care. Her work centers on building resilience in children at risk due to biological and psycho-social circumstances, including perinatal drug exposure, out of home placement, domestic violence, and the stresses of poverty. Currently, she is also serving on the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention, the Infant/Family Mental Health Advisory Committee and the Los Angeles County Relative Caregiver Ad Hoc Committee.

**Cheri Schoenborn** currently is a manager within the Prevention and Children Services Branch in the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) since 1988, and was instrumental in the planning and implementation of California's Early Start Program. DDS is the lead agency for the administration of California's Early Start Program in accordance with Part C of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and the California Early Intervention Services Act. Early Start is a statewide, coordinated, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, or at risk for developmental disabilities, and their families. Schoenborn has a B.A. degree in Social Science and Psychology. She has worked in state government human service programs for over 20 years, primarily in the areas of program management and policy



development. Schoenborn represents DDS on the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention and other interagency committees and projects related to children with special needs.

**Amy L. Tan, Ph.D.** provides works as resource support for the Child Development Department of the Sacramento City Unified School District. Previously, she served as an instructor at Compton College and also taught at the Saudi Arabian International School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Tan is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Association of Childhood Education International. Tan earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Tamkang College and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and Doctorate in Education from Southern Illinois University.

**Jo Weber** is the Chief of the Work Services and Demonstration Projects Branch in the Welfare to Work Division at the CA Department of Social Services. She is responsible for supporting and directing the development, operation and maintenance of statewide program and fiscal policies related to the provision of supportive services to CalWORKs participants. She also supports and directs the activities of Demonstration Projects related to CalWORKs, as well as teen programs and family planning activities. Jo has been committed to employment programs for over 14 years, beginning with her involvement in the development of the GAIN Program in 1986. She has extensive experience in program development and implementation, fiscal forecasting and data analysis.

